

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11591

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: STATE 103476

1. I CALLED M.L. THAWISAN THE KING'S PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY THIS MORNING TO ASCERTAIN AGAIN WHETHER THERE WAS ANY FLEXIBILITY IN THE KING AND QUEEN'S SCHEDULE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER AN AUDIENCE COULD BE ARRANGED ON THE MORNING OF MAY 5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS.

2. THAWISAN SAID THAT THE KING AND QUEEN HAVE CEREMONIES TO ATTEND ON THE MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF MAY 5 AND THAT AN AUDIENCE IN THE MORNING OF THE 5TH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, MAY 5 IS THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING'S CORONATION AND THE KING AND QUEEN ARE INVOLVED IN TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES ON THE 4TH AND 5TH.

3. I THEN INQUIRED AGAIN REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE FOR THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 4: THAWISAN SAID THAT THE KING AND QUEEN WOULD BE AT A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY UNTIL 1745 AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE RETURNING TO THE PALACE TO CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES AND RECEIVE THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS MONDALE AT 1830. FOR THIS REASON THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT COULD NOT BE ADVANCED.

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4. I THEN EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING THE AUDIENCE FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR AND PLAN IT FOR 1900. THAWISAN SAID HE WAS SURE THIS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO THE KING AND QUEEN BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS WOULD NOT INCONVENIENCE THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS MONDALE AS THEY HAVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DINNER TO ATTEND AT 2030.

5. I SAID THAT IF THIS SCHEDULE WERE ACCEPTED IN WASHINGTON THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS MONDALE MIGHT GO DIRECTLY FROM THE PALACE TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. I ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR MRS MONDALE TO CHANGE FROM A SHORT TO A LONG DRESS AT THE PALACE AND THAWISAN SAID THIS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND THAT THIS PLAN SEEMED TO HIM TO BE A GOOD IDEA. (ALTHOUGH NORMALLY SHORT DRESSES ARE WORN FOR AUDIENCES WE WILL ADVISE WHETHER MRS MONDALE MIGHT NOT WEAR DINNER DRESS FOR THIS CALL.)

6. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THE KING'S ROLE AS A RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADER GIVES ALL CEREMONIES HERE A RATHER SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND AFTER 33 YEARS ON THE THRONE THE TRADITIONAL SCHEDULES HAVE BECOME IRON CLAD. WE HOPE THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR DELAYING THE AUDIENCE WITH THE KING AND QUEEN WILL MEET WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL. OUTLINE OF THIS NEW SCHEDULE FOR MAY 4 WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

1430 ARRIVAL CEREMONIES

1500 DEPART FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

1530 VICE PRESIDENT AND OFFICIAL PARTY MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER

1700 RETURN TO HOTEL FOR PRIVATE TIME

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1840 DEPART HOTEL FOR CHITLADA PALACE

1900-2000 AUDIENCE WITH KING AND QUEEN

2030 DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

7. WE WILL COORDINATE OTHER CHANGES ARISING FROM NEW ARRIVAL TIME WITH MFA ON APRIL 24 AND ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTY.
WHITEHOUSE

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